

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendments and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-13 and 16-17 are pending in the present application. Claim 12 is amended. Claim 13 is withdrawn. Claims 16-17 are newly added. Support for amended Claim 12 can be found in the specification at least at page 31, line 23 to page 32, line 2, and in Figure 8, for example. Support for newly added Claim 16 can be found in the specification at least at page 32, lines 3-10, and in Figure 8, for example. Support for newly added Claim 17 can be found in the specification at least at page 32, lines 11-18, and in Figure 8, for example. Thus, no new matter is added.

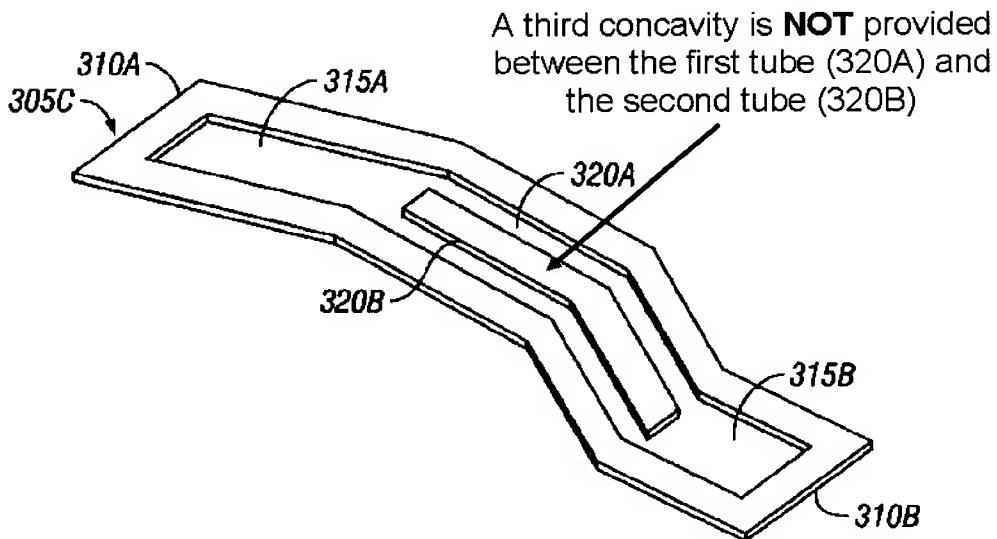
The outstanding Office Action rejected Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Nelson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,529,377, hereinafter “Nelson”) in view of Steele et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,562,949, hereinafter “Steele”) or Uchida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,943,543, hereinafter “Uchida”).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Nelson in view of Steele or Uchida.

Amended independent Claim 12 recites a first ditch provided on the face of the second base plate that defines a channel which transports the gas-phase working fluid from the vaporization chamber to the liquefaction chamber, a second ditch provided on the face of the second base plate that defines a further channel which transports the liquid-phase working fluid from the liquefaction chamber to the liquid suction and retention unit, and a third concavity provided on the face of the second base plate and disposed between the first ditch and the second ditch which cooperates with the first base plate to define a space for thermal insulation. One benefit of the above-noted feature is that it is possible to restrict the thermal

conduction through the second base plate and to prevent a decrease in cooling efficiency of the heat transport device.<sup>1</sup>

Turning now to the cited art, Nelson describes an integrated cooling system. The outstanding Office Action asserts that the bottom metal layer (305B) is a first base plate, the center layer (305C) is a second base plate, the right cavity (315B) is a first concavity, the left cavity (315A) is a second concavity, the first tube (320A) is a first ditch and the second tube (320B) is a second ditch.<sup>2</sup> However, Nelson fails to describe a third concavity provided on the face of the center layer (305B) and disposed between the first tube (320A) and the second tube (320B) which cooperates with the bottom metal layer (305B) to define a space for thermal insulation. Indeed, as shown below in annotated Figure 2, Nelson fails to disclose or suggest a third concavity disposed between the first tube (320A) and the second tube (320B).



Steele fails to remedy the deficiencies discussed above regarding Nelson in relation to amended independent Claim 12. Instead, Steele is silent regarding a third concavity provided on a second base plate and disposed between a first ditch and a second ditch which cooperates with a first base plate to define a space for thermal insulation.

<sup>1</sup> See specification at page 31, line 24 to page 32, line 2.

<sup>2</sup> See outstanding Office Action at page 2.

Uchida fails to remedy the deficiencies discussed above regarding Nelson and Steele in relation to amended independent Claim 12. Instead, Uchida is silent regarding a third concavity disposed between a first ditch and a second ditch which cooperates with a first base plate to define a space for thermal insulation.

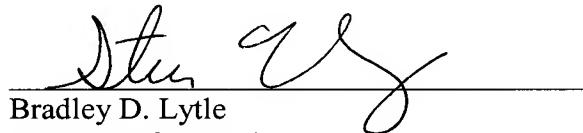
Accordingly, no reasonable combination of Nelson, Steele, and Uchida would include all of the features recited in amended independent Claim 12. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Newly added dependent Claims 16-17 each depend, directly or indirectly, from amended independent Claim 12, and patentably distinguishes over the cited references for at least the same reasons that amended independent Claim 12 does.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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